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FM AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6925
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0264
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0038
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 0089
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0229
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
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SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/21/2018

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SUBJECT: SLOVENIA LIKELY TO REMAIN A FOLLOWER RATHER THAN A
LEADER IN REBUTTING RUSSIA'S CLAIMS AGAINST GEORGIA

REF: STATE 98030

Classified By: CDA B. Freden, Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶1. (C) On September 22, Emboff met with Jure Zerovec, Deputy Director of the Division for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, to urge a strong and public response to Russia's claims against Georgia (reftel). Zerovec took our message on board, but was noncommittal. He admitted that Slovenia was "not vocal" within the EU, NATO and OSCE on Georgia/Russia; however, he noted that Slovenia agreed it should not be "business as usual" with Russia. He also expressed concern about recent Russian moves. He stressed that the West should not accede to Russian conditions that EU and OSCE monitors not have access to the territory of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Zerovec said that if this were the case, it would be an "invalid mission."
GHAFARI